

preferences. And they haven't just implied this. More than one Democrat has actually straight-out called this Supreme Court illegitimate, despite the fact that every single Justice on the Supreme Court was duly nominated and confirmed in accordance with the Constitution of the United States.

And the Senate, despite having the slimmest possible majority, in fact—a merely technical majority and absolutely no mandate for radical change—Democrats have pushed to abolish the legislative filibuster so they can steamroll through far-left Democratic legislation, including a partisan takeover of election law and, of course, the most extreme abortion legislation ever considered in Congress.

Just imagine the howls that would have resulted if Republicans had announced that we were going to abolish the legislative filibuster to institute a 20-week abortion ban—a ban that is much more in line with the sentiments of the majority of Americans than Democrats' far-left abortion legislation.

Or take the protests that have been going on at the Supreme Court Justices' homes. The President and other Democrats have made it clear they are perfectly fine with demonstrators congregating at the private homes of Supreme Court Justices to try and intimidate them into changing their vote.

I have to ask, would Democrats be fine with pro-life activists appearing at the homes of Justice Breyer, Justice Kagan, and Justice Sotomayor to try to intimidate them into changing their votes? I think we all know the answer to that. But because abortion is one of Democrats' pet issues, clearly, the usual rules don't apply. "Government knows best" quickly becomes "Democrats know best," which leads to one rule for Democrats and one rule for everyone else.

"Government knows best" is not a vision Republicans share. We believe that individuals, not Washington bureaucrats, are the best judges of what they and their family and children need. The government should be a backstop, not Big Brother.

We also know the more government expands, the more individual liberty shrinks, which is why we are firmly committed to a philosophy of limited government. Our country is founded to safeguard individual liberty and preserving that liberty is a sacred trust, which is why Republicans will continue to oppose Democrats' "Washington knows best," Big Government philosophy, and why we will continue to fight to make sure that Americans' right to run their own lives and shape their own destinies is protected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

NOMINATION OF MARY T. BOYLE

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, in a few moments, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Mary Boyle to be a

Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC. It appears that the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, finally has the votes lined up for confirmation of Ms. Boyle and that she will be elevated to this position. I think this is a decision that Members of the Democratic Party and the administration will come to regret and Americans, in general, will come to regret.

Recently, the Commerce Committee failed to report Ms. Boyle's nomination favorably. All Democrats voted aye; all Republicans voted no.

I think Members should understand this. CPSC plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of American consumers. For this reason, I have significant concerns about major administrative failures at the agency during Ms. Boyle's tenure as Executive Director there, including the improper disclosure of unredacted manufacturer and consumer data.

An investigation I led as chairman of the Commerce Committee last Congress determined that the unauthorized release of this data, which violated section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, was the result of insufficient training, ineffective management, and poor information technology implementation.

All of these failings at the CPSC were under Mary Boyle's watch as the primary career official charged with the day-to-day administration of the Agency's business, and yet today we are being asked to elevate her to an even more important and responsible position at CPSC.

I am also deeply troubled by the CPSC's curtailing of port inspections for several months beginning with the pandemic and Ms. Boyle's involvement in this decision. In addition, she presided over the deficient and prolonged process of fully returning CPSC staff to work at these ports. So the inspections were not getting done. There are now hundreds, if not thousands, of unsafe products that entered the country under Ms. Boyle's watch, and we still lack a clear plan from the CPSC on how those dangerous products will be removed from the market.

This nominee has failed to demonstrate strong and effective leadership in her current position as executive director of the CPSC. Yet the administration and, apparently, the majority leader of the Senate are inexplicably trying to promote her to a higher position of trust and authority.

In light of these many problems at the Agency associated with Ms. Boyle's leadership, I think her confirmation will be a mistake, and I think my Democratic colleagues and the administration will come to regret this decision.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARTISTS

Mr. BOOKER. I rise not expecting to give a speech today, but I want to, first and foremost, recognize the Chair, who is my "mother" Senator, and I want to thank her for her incredible service to this institution.

I want to thank, which I rarely do, the staff who works here and runs the Senate every day, but I rise today to talk for a moment about groups that we don't talk about enough on this floor. We usually talk about everybody from law enforcement to our military, but we don't talk about artists.

We are a nation that even from our founding during Revolutionary times, there were extraordinary artists who expanded the moral imagination of this country and helped us to see a nation that could be free from British rule and domination.

In every point of American history, from protest movements to battles for suffrage, we have had artists who have painted these pictures of an America, a vision for what could be, but even more than that, they have healed us during difficult times. They have pulled us together with their inspiration. They have called out injustices. They have brought light to the dark places of our country.

You know, Picasso talked about art being something that helps to shake the dust off the soul of humanity, but I think it does more than that. As an African American, I have seen art in the tradition of healing, of providing hope, of even calling out with specificity the instructions on how to be free.

We remember the song that Harriet Tubman pointed to:

Wade in the water, wade in the water, God is going to trouble the water.

That is the tradition that sourced my family. From enduring the pain of a nation that was unequal and divided, often in church with gospel songs, there was healing; there was hope. And even the poetry in the Harlem Renaissance spoke to an America that could possibly be if we just never stop believing.

As the great poet Langston Hughes said:

America never was America to me,

[But] I swear this oath—

America will be!

Who made America,

Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,

Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,

Must [make] our . . . dream [live] again.

O, yes, I say it plain,

America never was America to me,

And yet I swear this oath—

America will be!

I lean on poetry and song today just to get myself up in the morning. I have seen how artists have come to visit us here in the Capitol and Senators from

all backgrounds thanking them for providing for them the soundtrack of their lives. And God, humor, the comedians of old, I remember sneaking into balconies—in my house—and watching over the balcony my dad, quietly not thinking his children were listening, put on records by Richard Pryor, whose humor helped to heal his troubled heart, make him laugh at the absurdities of a nation that still had not fully fulfilled itself.

And so I bring this thought and this heart to say thank you to artists, thank you to this institution for what we did in a bipartisan way to make sure we were funding the venues of this country, the stages where so many artists were able to continue to work during the pandemic. We fund the arts. It is funding that often has to be pushed or fought for, but I say it is the funding that in many ways helps to sustain and source the soul of a nation because without art, we would have lost our way a long time ago.

Now, this week I had this moment where you have just got to pinch yourself, and I know that the Presiding Officer has had this moment, too, where you get this call from White House staff, and they say: Hey, we have got some extra seats in the President of the United States' box at the Kennedy Center to come see a performance by a group called Freestyle Love Supreme.

And I said no immediately. I am so busy. I have got so much work. I had a night that was ending relatively early. But my staff said to me, you know, a guy, Chris Jackson—he was George Washington in “Hamilton”—is going to be there as well, and I had gotten to know him because he was so generous. I saw him in “In The Heights.” He invited me backstage, gave me such love. I saw him in “Hamilton.” Even when I had someone I was trying to date with me, he made me seem special in her eyes. I will never forget that. He was a good wingman.

So I went to go see them perform, and I was just blown away by the performance. I hope that while they are here, people get a chance to go. But what blew me away was how they reaffirmed that message to me. At a time that I am troubled with what is happening in our life, with decisions in the Supreme Court, with challenges, with the economy, they touched on a lot of those issues with humor and artistic genius, and I found my spirit being lifted. I found camaraderie with strangers.

You see a whole crowd of people being pulled together around ideals of empathy and love and affirmation of our most core, cherished values as a nation, like freedom and protest.

I am honored that this group is visiting the U.S. Senate right now—for many, their first time being in this sacred space, this hallowed Hall—to get a chance to witness what we do every day.

And I just want to say thank you to them, and I want to give tribute to all of the artists in America who do so

much for the soul of this Nation and inspire us every day not to stop believing in tomorrows that can be better than what we have in the present.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

NOMINATION OF MARY T. BOYLE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise in support today of Mary Boyle, the nominee to serve as Commissioner at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Mary will bring to this role more than a decade of experience on the Consumer Product Safety Commission, where she previously served as general counsel and currently serves as the Executive Director. She is deeply knowledgeable about consumer product safety and the functioning of the CPSC. I have every confidence that she will be ready to lead on day one.

But it is not just her professional background that makes her perfect for this role. As a mom who raised three kids, she knows firsthand how important it is for parents to be able to trust the products they use every day. She understands the stakes and the devastating consequences of unsafe products.

Just yesterday, the Commerce Committee took an important step forward toward protecting kids and infants by passing the STURDY Act, which will prevent harmful and ultimately heart-breaking furniture tip-overs. Senators CASEY and BLUMENTHAL and I have been working on this for quite a while. It resulted in the largest furniture recall ever in the history of America with IKEA. But we need standards in place across the board. I know that we can count on Mary to be another critical partner in preventing unsafe products from hurting our kids.

Mary is clear-eyed about the responsibility of the CPSC. In her words, it provides a safety net for the public, and in order to carry out that crucial task, it needs a full roster of Commissioners. Currently, four of the five slots are filled. To truly address pressing product safety issues, we have to fill that fifth seat. We can't afford to play politics here. This is about everything from the hazards posed by crib bumper pads to the use of toxic chemicals in everyday consumer products.

I got involved in this way, way back before I was a Senator, when we had a young child swallow a charm that he got with a pair of tennis shoes. It was a giveaway. He didn't die because he choked on that charm; he died over a period of days because the lead in that charm, which was from a foreign country, got into his system, and he died in just a few days. That is how I got involved in the lead standards on foreign toys, that is how I started working with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and that is when I saw the difference it can make.

We passed a bipartisan bill named after Jim Baker's granddaughter—the Virginia Graeme Baker pool safety

bill—after a young kid named Abigail Taylor in Minnesota was in a kiddie swimming pool and her intestines were ripped out just sitting in the pool because there were so many faulty drains in this country.

I went and visited her in the hospital, and she said: I don't want this to happen to any other kid.

She lived for a year, and during that time, we worked together.

Then Ted Stevens and I passed a much stronger pool safety bill. And I know that the last time I heard testimony from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, over a period of a decade, after we lost a number of kids every year, not one kid had died because of a simple change to how the pool drains worked. That is what the Consumer Product Safety Commission can do at its best—make sure it doesn't happen to any other kid again.

The American people are counting on us to get this right, and with Mary, we have the opportunity to do just that.

As Mary said in her testimony, consumers need to be able to go about their daily lives without worrying that products they interact with every day—washing machines, cell phones, batteries, toys, and treadmills, to name just a few—do not injure, maim, or kill them. Throughout her impressive career, Mary Boyle has shown that she is wholeheartedly dedicated to that mission.

I am voting in support of her, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1787.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act is a much needed reform that would put State attorneys general bringing antitrust suits under the Federal antitrust law on equal footing alongside Federal antitrust enforcement personnel by allowing them to avoid consolidation with private antitrust suits.

This would shield these important antitrust actions from the inefficiencies of coordinating their litigation with their slower moving counterparts brought by private litigants, and it would also respect our federalist system of government and recognize the unique and essential role that States play specifically in enforcing our antitrust laws.

No doubt, this is exactly why this bill is supported by 45 State attorneys general, including Utah, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, California, Vermont, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Delaware, Nebraska, Connecticut, Missouri, Hawaii, New Jersey, Arkansas, Louisiana, and North Carolina, representing the home States of almost every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My own reasons for introducing the legislation are simple. States are sovereign entities, and they are entitled to